planations on this subject, I refer to the accompanying report of the Quartermaster General.

It is probable, however, that, in some instances, the expenditures, both of the Quartermaster's and the Commissary departments, may have been increased by mal-administration. The transactions of both these departments involve such a variety of details, and their agents are so far removed from the supervision of their chiefs, that abuses may exist a long time before they are discovered. Every effort, however, has been used to detect these abuses and to prevent their recurrence. Inspectors have been and to prevent their recurrence. Inspectors have been sent to the frontiers to inquire into the manner in which the affairs of these Departments are administered, and a rigid scrutiny into accounts has been ordered. I regret to say that the Department has some reason to fear that its apprehensions on this subject were not altogether without

quired territory, (including Texas) amounted to \$4,556,-709.75.

Congress at their last session omitted to provide for a deficiency which was ascertained to exist in the appropriations for the Quartermaster's department for the year ending 30th June last. Serious embarrassment would have resulted to the service from this omission, had there not existed some unexpended balances of former appropriations, which, under the act of August 26, 1842, were priations, which, under the act of August 26, 1842, were priations, which, under the act of August 26, 1842, were transferred to the Quartermaster's department. Congress also reduced all the items of appropriations, but one, for the same department, for the current fiscal year (ending 30th June next) fifty per cent. below the estimates; the consequence of which is that the appropriations for that department are entirely inadequate to its wants, and that Congress will be called upon, at an early period, to supply the deficiency.

Congress having clearly manifested a determination to reduce, as far as possible, the expenditures of the army.

reduce, as far as possible, the expenditures of the army, I felt it my duty, as far as was practicable, to carry their views into effect. I have accordingly labored to reform abuses, to enforce rigidly all regulations looking to economy, and to retrench every unnecessary expense. I will enumerate some of the measures adopted for this

The number of enlisted men in the Ordnance department, prior to the late war, amounted to 250 men; but during the war it was increased to 587 men. By an order of the Department they were reduced to their origina

Prior to the late war there were only four light artillery companies. After the war broke out four more of the artillery companies were converted into light ar-tillery, making in all eight companies. This descrip-tion of troops, although extremely effective in a regular war, are utterly useless in the kind of service in which the army is now employed. The Department did not hesitate, therefore, to direct that six of these companies should be dismounted. Of this number four will continue dismounted, unless Congress should otherwise direct; but, mounted, unless Congress should otherwise direct; but, as it is deemed important to preserve a portion of this description of force, the two remaining companies will be remounted as soon as the Department is provided with the means of doing so. This will make in all four companies, or one to each of the regiments of artillery, which seems to have been contemplated by the act of 1821.

A number of persons from civil life are employed in the service in various capacities, such as clerks, &c. An order was issued whereby their number has been greatly reduced, and their duties required to be performed by officers and soldiers.

officers and soldiers.

An order was issued last spring that at all the perma-

greatly promote the health and comfort of the troops.

Besides these measures, various others, which it is needless to enumerate, have been adopted, with a view to promote economy, and to ensure fidelity and attention on the

part of disbursing officers.

The fact is not to be disguised that a great laxity of expense, and a disregard of the regulations looking to economy, had become somewhat prevalent in the army. The Department has exerted itself to remedy this evil, and is gratified to say that in all its efforts for this purpose it has received the aid and zealous co-operation of the superior officers. The effect of the measures it has adopted for this purpose is already discernible in a considerable reduction of the expenditures; and I have the satisfac-tion to announce that the estimates of the Department for the next fiscal year are considerably below the expenditures of the present and preceding years.

The expenditures for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending 30th June last, were - \$9,060,268 58

The estimates for the next year are - 7,898,775 83

Showing a reduction of -Department would have carried out, had the aid of legis-lation not been necessary to enable it to do so.

A number of arsenals have, from time to time, been es-tablished at points where they were then needed, but where,

in consequence of the extension of our frontier, and the vastly increased facilities of transportation, they are now entirely useless. As it is doubtful whether it be competent

turely useless. As it is doubtful whether it be competent for the Executive to abolish these establishments, it is desirable that this authority be vested in it by law. In my last report I recommended that the Department should be authorized to enlist men specially as teamsters, and stated at length my reasons for this recommendation. Further experience confirms me in the opinion that this mode of obtaining the aid of this indispensable class of persons (of whom five hundred or six hundred are conpersons (of whom her nundred or six nundred are constantly employed by the Quartermaster's department) is far preferable to the plan now resorted to, of employing them sometimes at enormous wages. It has been suggested, however, that, instead of enlisting men specially as teamsters, it would be better to increase the number of privates in each company on the frontier to one hundred, and to authorize the allowance of a higher rate of pay to such of them as should be detailed as teamsters. This ar-

the Government would save by means of this improvement, in two or three years, would defray the cost of the work.

But whatever efforts may be made, either by Congress of by the Department, to curtail the expenditures of the army, they must continue to be enormous so long as it is necessary that so large a portion of it should be stationed on the frontier. The history of the world affords no instance of an army being permanently stationed at so great a distance from the main source of its supplies. It is evident, therefore, that Congress should resort to every means to diminish the necessity of regular troops for the defence of the fron-tiers. Permit me to offer a few suggestions on this point, though they do not immediately relate to the operations

though they do not immediately relate to the operations of this Department.

In the first place, I would suggest that every facility and encouragement should be afforded to the formation of a local militia, in which our new possessions, like all the Mexican States, are very deficient. As the first step towards the accomplishment of this object, I would recommend that the Executive be authorized to distribute arms among the inhabitants. I am fully persuaded that the advantages that would result from the adoption of this measure, in familiarizing the people with the use of arms, in inspiring them with confidence, and in encouraging the formation of militia companies, would more than compenformation of militin companies, would more than compensate for the triling expense that would attend it. The very fact that the inhabitants were known to be armed, would tend to intimidate the Indians. The distribution should, of course, be made with such precautions as would prevent their being sold or converted to an improper use.

The quantity of arms to which the new States and Ter-The quantity of arms to which the new States and Ter-ritories are respectively entitled under the act of 1808 is so small as to be of no practical advantage, and, as they have not participated in the issues heretofore made, it would seem to be but just that they should now receive more than their distributive share. At all events they might be permitted to receive their quota for several years in advance. As the arms are lying idle in the depots, no loss to the Government would result from this course, and they will probably be never more needed than they are at

In the next place, policy and humanity both require In the next place, policy and humanity both require that we should employ some other means of putting a stop to these depredations than the terror of our arms. We should try the effect of conciliatory measures. There is no doubt that the Indians are frequently impelled to commit depredations by despair and hunger. As the white population has advanced upon them, they have been compelled to recede before it. The lands that afford nourishment to cattle and game are also those the best adapted to cultivation, and conscorted the first to tempt the setment to cattle and game are also those the best haapted to cultivation, and consequently the first to tempt the settler; so that the Indians are compelled to take refuge in arid plains and mountains that afford little sustenance to animal life; and even there the circle of white population seems rapidly closing around them. This is particularly the case in Texas. The United States, as the owners of the public domain, have always acted on the principle that the public domain, have always acted on the principle that the aboriginal race had at least a right of occupancy in the soil, and when it was needed for settlement this right has been extinguished by voluntary sale. Texas, on the contrary, as the owner of all the vacant lands within her fimits, acknowledges, it is said, no such right; and she has from time to time taken possession of the territory occupied by the Indians, laid it off into counties, and proceeded to survey and sell it. Nothing could be more calculated to alarm and exasperate the Indians, and to bring

in the expenditures of that department. For fuller ex- | about collisions between them and the white settlers, than | REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR.

foundation.

From statements carefully prepared by the different bureaus of this Department, it appears that the increased expenditures in the army resulting from our newly-acquired territory, (including Texas) amounted to \$4,556,709.75.

lessons in horsemanship could be given when the weather will not admit of this exercise in the open air, would great-ly conduce both to the health and the improvement of the

cadets.
I also visited the national armories at Springfield and Harper's Ferry, and I cannot speak in terms of too high praise of the order and regularity that prevail at those establishments, and of the admirable economy with which

they are conducted.

The operations of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers have been various and important during the las

The survey of the Northern Lakes, a work of which the importance can hardly be estimated, has been prosecuted with great activity, and it would have advanced still more rapidly had the appropriations for that object admitted it.
With the view to hasten the completion of the work, the
estimates for it for the next year have been increased. The survey of the Creek boundary from the frontiers of Arkansas to nearly the 100th degree of longitude west, and that of a route for a road from St. Louis to the great

bend of Red River, have been completed, and are ready to be laid before Congress.

The expedition to the Salt Lake of the Territory of Utah has also returned. The report, which, by a resolu-tion of the Senate at the last session, was ordered to be printed, will be ready for delivery during the approaching

The expedition under Brevet Captain Sitgreaves, mentioned in my last annual report, from Santa Fe to the head-waters of the Zuni, and down that river to its mouth, is still in the field.

still in the field.

The survey of the Delta of the Mississippi, with a view to the prevention of overflows, for which an appropriation was made the session preceding the last, has been nearly completed. One of the gentlemen charged with this highly important work has made his report. That of the other has been delayed by his illness, but it is in course

of preparation, and, as soon as it is received, both reports will be laid before you.

In consequence of the numerous demands made on the corps of Topographical Engineers, not only for the duties that properly devolve on it, but to meet the demands of should be established, to be cultivated by the troops. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to ascertain the result of the experiment. If it should prove successful, it will not only effect a considerable reduction of expense in the Quartermaster's and Commissary's departments have also assumed to the subject, contained in his report, which is hereto an greatly promote the health.

I beg leave, also, to call your attention to the laws orga nizing the Subsistence department. It was the intention of Congress that this branch of the staff should consist of a fixed number of officers, who should be regularly appointfixed number of officers, who should be regularly appointed by the President, and should give bonds before entering upon the discharge of their duties. This plan, however, has never been fully carried into effect. The number of assistant commissaries was limited by the act of 1821 to fifty; but, this number being found insufficient, several laws, subsequently passed, were so construed as to dispense with the limitation, and occasionally thrice that number have been in service. Notwithstanding this great increase, it not unfrequently happens that, by changes in the distribution of the troops, a post or detachment is left. the distribution of the troops, a post or detachment is left without any assistant commissary; in which case it is the practice for the commanding officer to designate some sualtern officer as acting assistant commissary.

As the posts where these officers are stationed are fre-

mode of transacting the business of the subsistence de-partment are, that its highly important duties must often devolve on young and very inexperienced officers; that large sums of money and property of great value fre-quently pass into the hands of officers who have furnish-ed no bonds; and, finally, great confusion in accounts and consequent embarrassment and delay in their settlement. I know no other mode of remedying these evils than by appointing a few additional commissaries, so as to enable the Department to send several to the different military departments on the frontier, and to assign to each one the charge of a certain number of posts. Some of one the charge of a certain number of posts. Some of the assistant commissaries could thus be dispensed with, and the accounts and transactions of the remainder placed under more immediate and strict supervision. This plan would not be more expensive than that now pursued, and would afford better guaranties for the faithful and efficient discharge of the duties of those officers.

The board to whom the management of the military asylum for disabled and destitute soldiers, established at the last session of Congress, was committed, have devoted a great deal of time and attention to the selection of suitable sites. They have determined on one in the vicinity

and to authorize the allowance of a higher rate of pay to such of them as should be detailed as teamsters. This arrangement would enable the officer in command to use them either as teamsters or as soldiers, as circumstances might require.

The removal of the obstructions to the navigation of Red River and of the Rio Grande would greatly reduce the expense of supplying many of the posts in Texas and New Mexico, by diminishing the amount of land transportation. I have little doubt that the amount that the Government would save by means of this improvement.

By the act of 28th September, 1850, making appropriation.

tions for the support of the army, a small additional pay was allowed to the officers and soldiers stationed in California and Oregon. That provision expires by its own limitation on the 1st of March next. The reasons for its

limitation on the 1st of March next. The reasons for its adoption still exist, and I recommend that it be continued in force, and that it include also New Mexico, where these reasons apply with at least equal force.

The act of 1808, providing for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia, directs that the distribution of arms provided for by that act among the States and Territories should be based upon the number of their "effective militia." As the act specifies no mole in which this number shall be ascertained, each State and Territory adopts a method of its own. The consequence is, that some States make very imperfect returns, and some no returns at all, whereby the law is rendered unequal in its operation. This inequality might be prevented, and some unnecessary trouble and expense saved by simply declaring that the number of free white male inhabitants over the age of — years and under that of — years in the respective States and Territories, as shown by the latest census, shall hereafter be the basis of distribution.

Respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted.
C. M. CONRAD, Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT. D J. STEER is receiving frequent additions to his stood of Gentlemen's Goods, and has now in store a very etc assortment of French and German Cloths, of blue,

complete assortment of Freben and Collect, brown, olive, and other shades.

Also, a choice stock of fine and medium Doe Skins, and a great variety of new and beautiful styles of fancy Cassimeres Also, a superior stock of Over-coatings, worthy of especial All of which I am prepared to make up to order, in the

All of which I am prepared to make up to order, at the mose elegant styles, at reasonable prices.

I keep constantly in store a general assortment of Gentlemen's furnishing Goods, such as—

Dress Shirts, Under-Shirts, and Drawers
Cravats, Stocks, Suspenders, Hosiery, Umbrellas, &c.
Gentlemen will find my stock particularly worthy of their

Fits warranted in all cases, and no disappointments per

nov 7—3taw4wif CANDLES, OIL, SOAP, &c,-75 boxes adamanting

Candles

25 boxes sperm Candles

150 do mould do

1,000 gallons winter bleached sperm Oil
1,000 do do refined whale do

4,000 pounds dark and yellow Soap

25 boxes variegated Soap in bars

30 do Hull & Son's Fancy Soap

30 do Hull & Son's Fancy Soap 25 do Castile 100 do pearl and Poland Starch 1,000 pounds Saltpetre 1,000 do Saleratus 5,000 do Sal Soda. Just received for sale by MURRAY & SEMMES, nov 20—co6tif (Wash News)

FIRST WARD HARDWARE STORE.—The sub scribers, thankful for past favors, take this opportuni

that they continue to keep on hand a general assortment of such goods as are generally found in a Hardware Store, which are offered as low as they can be bought in this city or George-town.

J. L. SAVAGE & CO.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NOVEMBER 29, 1851. NOVEMBER 29, 1851.

To the President of the United States.

Sin: For the purpose of enabling you to recommend to Congress, at its approaching session, such measures as you may judge necessary and expedient respecting the

rior, I respectfully submit the following report: The law creating this Department was approved the 3d of March, 1849. By its provisions the Secretary of the Interior is required to exercise supervisory and appellate powers over the acts of the Commissioner of Patents, of the General Land Office, of Indian Affairs, of Pensions, Census; the Inspectors and Warden of the Penitentiary of cost was attained. the District of Columbia, and the subject of lead and other mines of the United States. He is also charged with other duties not specially mentioned in the law, but which, from their peculiar nature, appropriately belong this office. Among these is the general supervision of the proceedings of the Commission instituted, under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, to run and mark the boundary like between the United States and Mexico. Under each of these several heads he has important and responsible functions to perform: he prescribes rules for the general administration of the different bureaus, sees to their faithful execution, and decides judicially on all appeals from either of them which may be brought before him. Such its the general outline of the duties of the office.

The reports of the heads of the several bureaux will give full and satisfactory information of their respective operations, accompanied by many valuable suggestions of amprovements and modifications in the existing laws. It is proper, however, that I should exhibit to you a condensed summary of the condition of the Department as a whole, with such remarks of my own as the public interests seem, in my judgment, to demand. This I will now proceed to do; and, for the sake of convenient reference, my statements will be arranged under the different heads above enumerated, and such others as may be necessary. the District of Columbia, and the subject of lead and

rated, and such others as may be necessary.

Estimates of Appropriations.

The following tabular statement shows the estimates of June, 1853, with a parallel column, exhibiting those for the year ending 30th of June, 1852. This form of presenting the subject is adopted for the purpose of miking a comparison of the estimates of the two years without the trouble of a reference to former reports:

	1852.	1858.
Department proper	28,250 00	85,827 50
Land service	836,152 50	1,284,916.47
Indian affairs	2,441,472 66	1,343,276 36
Pension Office		1,566,040 00
Census		150,000 00
United States Courts	592,747 00	672,058)0
Public Buildings	481,275 00	418,504 71
Pauper lunaties	10,000 00	10,000)0
Agricultural statistics .	5,500 00	5,500)0
Penitentiary of the Dis-		
trict of Columbia	11,900 00	9,210 00
Mexican Boundary Survey	100,000 00	200,000 00
Totals	\$7,132,023 47	\$5,695,328 04

A reference to the aggregate of the two columns vill show that the estimates for the next year are less by \$1,436,695.48 than those for the present fiscal year, although they embrace many items of large amount for new objects not embraced in the estimates for the present year; as, for example, \$150,000 for the census, and up-wards of \$300,000 for surveying the public lands in Cali-

This reduction results from no diminution of the actual expenses of this branch of the public service, but from the fact that the estimates for this year embraced many very large items for deficiencies of the preceding year. A vicious practice has prevailed for some years past of reducing the estimates at the commencement of the session below the amount actually necessary, with the view of afterwards applying for additional appropriations in what is called a deficiency bill. I took occasion in my last report to express my disapprobation of this practice, and I required the heads of the several bureaus attached to this Department to make full and fair estimates of all

a reasonable approximation to accuracy, when it is found that in the disbursement of more than seven millions of dollars the expenditures exceed the estimate only about \$300,000. With these general remarks I proceed to submit detailed

explanations of each class of the estimates in the order in which they stand.

Department proper.

Under this head the estimate for the next fiscal year exceeds that for the present \$7,577.50. This results from the fact that at the expiration of the last fiscal year unexpended balances of former appropriations remained, as stated in my last annual report, which brought the esti-mates of the present year below their legitimate amount.

t	Land Service.
	The estimate for the present fiscal year
7	amounted to \$836,152 50
t	To this add the amount appro-
ı	priated at the last session
ŝ	for settling land titles in Cali-
	fornia 50,000 00
ı	That for surveys of the public
1	lands 25,000 00
	And the sum embraced in the
	present estimates to meet
	deficiencies for the present
23	THE WAS CITED ON THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF
9	
0	230,305 00

the present year will be shown to be	\$1,066,457 50
The estimate for the next fiscal year amou	mts
de por chame como su a suprema el muna como	\$1,284,916 47
Deduct the sum embraced therein to m	
deficiencies in the present year -	- 155,805 00
And the amount chargeable to the next y	ear
is the many and the service with	\$1,129,611 47
Being an excess over the estimate for	the
present year of	- \$63,153 97
This is accounted for by the unexpect required for the surveys in California. nia out of the question, and the estimate	Leaving Califor-
Estimate for the present year -	- \$836,152 50
Deduct the amount therein for surveys	in .
California	- 7,000 00
And it will leave the amount chargeable	to
the present year	- \$829,152 50
Estimate for the next fiscal year -	\$1,284,916 47
Deduct deficiencies of present	
- 155 805	00

And the amount embraced for 307,575 00 462,880 00 And the amount properly chargeable to the next fiscal year will be - \$822,036 47 Being \$7,116.03 less than the amount properly chargea-

ble to the present year. Indian Affairs. Under this head the estimates for the next fiscal year Under this head the estimates for the next fiscal year amount to \$1,098,196.30 less than those for the present fiscal year. For reasons stated in my last annual report, the estimates for the present year were unusually large, but the estimates for the next fiscal year, are even below the average of those for the last and present fiscal years.

Pensions. Here the estimates for the next fiscal year amount to \$1,053,686.31 less than those for the present year amount to \$1,053,686.31 less than those for the present year. It was stated in my last report that though the estimates for the present year amounted to \$2,624,726.31, there was chargeable to the present year only

the sum of
To this add \$20,733.33, appropriated at
the last session, but not embraced in
the last estimates, and \$20,000 embraced in the present estimates to meet deficiencies on account of clerk hire for the present year, rendered necessary by the bounty land law of 28th Septem-

\$2,300,771 19 Then deduct the sum which it is now antici pated will remain on the 30th June, 1852, as the unexpended balances of appropriations for paying pensions

And the amount now ascertained to be chargeable to the present year is only

The estimate for the next fiscal year amounts To this add the sum of the unexpended bal-

ances which it is supposed will remain on hand at the end of the present year

- 380,500 00 Then deduct the amount embraced therein to meet deficiencies in the present year - 20,000 00 And the amount properly chargeable to the
next fiscal year will be found to be \$1,926,548 00
Only \$6,268.81 more than for the present year, notwithstanding the increase of clerical force rendered indisvarious subjects confided to the Department of the Intepensably necessary in the execution of the bounty land

The estimates of last year embraced nothing under this powers over the acts of the Commissioner of Patents, of the General Land Office, of Indian Affairs, of Pensions, and of Public Buildings, and also over the accounts of Marshals, Clerks, and other officers of the Courts of the United States; over the officers engaged in taking the Census; the Inspectors and Warden of the Penitentians of United States Courts.

Here there is an apparent excess over the estimate of last year of \$79,306. The appropriation for the last fiscal year fell short of the actual expenditures of that year about \$20,000, which was supplied out of the appropriation for the present fiscal year. The diversion of that amount from the purposes of the present year renders it necessary to increase to that extent the estimate for the next fiscal year. And it has been found necessary to increase the estimate for the next fiscal year for California, New Mexico, and Utah, alone, to \$70,000, being an increase of \$25,000.

The estimates for the next fiscal year amount to \$672,005.

Claims suspended for further statement.

Mexican War.

There have been 90,146 applications filed for bounties under the act of 11th of February, 17, granting lands or scrip to soldiers engaged in the 1 with Mexico. In all 83,955 claims have been 1 well and warrants or scrip issued to the parties of led. The warrants and scrip issued since the last avoid a report are as follows, viz:

3,020 warrants for 60 acres each:

223 warranty or 40 acres each:

223 warranty or 40 acres each:

3,020 warrants for \$100 each; and 63 certific es for \$100 each; and 2 certificates for \$25 each.

The estimates for the next fiscal year amount to \$672,053

Deduct the sum required to replace a like amount of the present appropriation applied to the purposes of the last year \$20,000

And also the additional amount included for California, New Mexico, and Utah \$25,000

45,000

and the excess of the estimate for the next fiscal year over that for the present year is only \$34,306—an increase of expenditures not inconsistent, it is believed, with the increase of judicial districts and the business therein, and not greater than the average of the annual increase of exenditures for judicial purposes.

Pauper Lunatics and Agricultural Statistics. Under these heads the estimates are the same as last

Public Buildings.
Under this head the estimates for the next fiscal year are \$62,770.29 less than they were for the present year, notwithstanding they embrace items to the amount of \$51,834.71 to meet deficiencies in the appropriations for the present fiscal year.

The estimates for the next fiscal year amount to \$418.504.71

amount to
Deduct therefrom the amount of the deficien-- 51,884 71 cies, chargeable to the present year And the amount properly chargeable to the next year will be The estimates for the present fiscal year

amounted to - - - - - Add the deficiencies above stated 51,834 71 And the amount properly chargeable to the present year will be - - - \$533,109 71 which is \$166,489.71 more than is now estimated for the

Penitentiary.

Here the estimate for the next fiscal year is \$2,690 less than that for the present year. This diminution of expen-ditures results from the increased productiveness of the in-stitution, arising from its better management.

Mexican Boundary Survey.

The amount embraced in the regular estimates for the present fiscal year was - - - \$100,000 00 The amount included in the estimates for There would, therefore, appear to be an excess over the estimate for the present year of \$100,000; but this is merely apparent. After the regular estimates had been submitted letters were received from the Commissioner making such representations as to the cost of transportation and the scarcity and high price of provisions, &c. in the country along the line, as to render it necessary to ask for a larger sum. The facts were communicated to the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Finance in the Senate, and they were requested to increase the appropriation to \$180,000. This was not done, however, and there was consequently a very large deficiency in the ap-As the posts where these officers are stationed are frequently very remote, it often happens that the assistant and acting assistant commissaries are in the actual discharge of their duties, and entrusted with money and property for a long time before, they can receive regular appointments and furnish bonds. The consequences of this the appropriation of \$100,000, makes the expenditures on account of the present year \$180,000, and deducting it from the gross amount of the present estimates, leaves \$120,000 only chargeable to the next fiscal year, being \$00,000 less than the amount required for the present

Pension Office. This Bureau has charge of two distinct branches of bu-

iness, viz. Pensions and Land Bounties.
Pensions may be classed under six different divisions.
First. To soldiers of the Revolution. Second. To widows of Revolutionary soldiers. Third. To invalids. Fourth. To widows and orphans of soldiers in the Mexi-

an war.
Fifth. To persons in the naval service of the United

Sixth. Virginia half-pay and commutation claims. The whole number of pensioners of all classes now or the rolls is 19,611, of whom 13,467 were paid during the the rolls is 19,611, of whom 13,467 were paid during the first two quarters of the present year, the latest periods to which we have reports. The number added to the rolls during the year was 2,287, and the number of deaths reported 765. The whole amount expended for pensions during the year ending 30th September, 1851, exclusive of navy pensions, is about \$1,489,848.

Revolutionary Pensions.

The first act granting pensions to Revolutionary soldiers was passed 18th March, 1818. The whole number pensioned under that act, up to the present time, is 20,485, of whom only 1,383 now remain on the rolls, being a reduction since my last report of 140.

The next law on the subject was passed on the 15th May, 1828. Under it 1,155 pensions were granted. At the date of the last report but 162 remained on the rolls, of which number 34 are supposed to have died during the last year, as only 128 are reported as being now on the rolls.

The third and much the most comprehensive law grant June, 1832. 32,986 persons have been beneficiaries under this act, but only 4,813 now remain on the rolls.

Widows of Revolutionary Soldiers. The first law granting pensions to persons of this class was passed the 4th July, 1836. Under its provisions 5,068 have received pensions. The number now on the rolls under that act, and the act of 21st July, 1848, is

The act of 7th July, 1838, granted pensions to widows of revolutionary soldiers who were married prior to 1794. Of 11,191 who received the benefit of that law, only 186 repeived their pensions during the first two quarters of the

ceived their pensions during the first two quarters of the present year.

The act of 2d February, 1848, extended the benefits of the law of 1838 to such widows as had been married prior to the 1st of January, 1794. The whole number pensioned under this act is 5,790, of whom 4,294 are yet on the rolls. The act of 29th July, 1848, extended its benefits to those who were married prior to 1800, and under the law 960 have been pensioned, all of whom, according to the returns, yet remain on the rolls.

It thus appears that time is rapidly sweeping from existence these venerable objects of national gratitude and munificence.

The whole number of pensioners of this class now on the rolls is 5,359, of whom 617 have been added during the year. Mexican War Pensions.

The act of 21st July, 1848, and the supplemental act of 22d February, 1849, and the joint resolution of 28th September, 1850, gave pensions to the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the Mexican war, or who died from disease contracted in the service. Under these laws 1,750 persons are now receiving pensions, showing an increase of 204 since the date of my last report.

Virginia Half-pay and Commutation Claims.

The half-pay claims examined and allowed since the date of my last report amount to \$41,490, including the sum of \$5,289.04 which had been previously adjudicated, but not paid.

No action has been taken on any commutation cases during the year. Congress having indicated a purpose to legislate in regard to them. I directed a suspension of further proceedings until the close of the next session, so as to afford them an opportunity of expressing their will or the subject.

Bounty Lands.

In addition to the changes proposed by the Commission's er, in view of the great in case of the business of the Peasion Office, I respectably recommend that provision by a population, and render it ab-cluttely impossible him to authenticate and transmit the lage of warrants and certificates now issued from the other duties of a ministerial of which he is now required by law to dischible compentation of elerks be so modified as to enjoy the nature and to graduate their salaries according respectively. At

Donations of public lands in consideration of various service have been made, under different law to various classes of soldiers. The first grants of this sind were to Soldiers of the War of 182.

In my last report the whole number warrants issued to soldiers of our last war with Great Britain was stated to be 28,978. Since that time the following additional warrants have been issued, viz: 1 for 320 acres; 55 for 160 acres; and 36 for 40 acres ach. There we still 450 claims suspended for further widence.

Mexican War.

yiz:
3,020 warrants for 160 acres each;
223 warrants or 40 acres each;
63 certifices for \$100 each; and
2 certificates for \$25 each.
6,191 cases re suspended for further evidence.
The Bours Land Law of 28th September, 1850.

The Boung Land Law of 28th September, 1850.

This ace is much more liberal and comprehensive in its provisions than any previous law of a similar character. It gives to all persons living, and to the widows and minor children of such as are dead, who have been actually engaged in the military service of the United States. In any war from 1790 to the close of the Mexican war, for the period of one month or more, bounty land, graduated in quantity according to length of service. If all the soldiers engaged in these wars were now living, or represented by persons entitled to the benefits of the law, the number of claims would not be less than five hundred and fifty thousand; and, assuming 80 acres as the average grant to each, the quantity of land disposed of would be forty-four millions of acres. Making proper allowance for those who had died leaving no representatives entitled to claim, the former Commissioner of Pensions estimated the number of applicants at two hundred and fifty thousand. The result has proved that he did not over-estimate the number. Between the 28th of September and 5th of November, 1850, 9,418 applications were filed. On the 1st of No-1850, 9,418 applications were filed. On the 1st of November, 1851, the whole number received was about 157,000; and, as they are still coming in rapidly, it will not fall far below 170,000 at the commencement of the

session of Congress.

The duty of acknowledging, registering, endorsing, filing, investigating, deciding, and issuing warrants for such a vast number of claims, involved great labor and responsibility. It was necessary, in the first place, to prescribe forms of application and modes of proof by which they were to be established. The next step was to collect, arrange, and classify the rolls of the different com-panies, extending through a period of near sixty years, and embracing more than half a million of soldiers; so that the claim of each applicant might be compared with them, and his identity and term of service accurately as-

No provision had been made by law to enable the office to dispose of this immense increase of business. Hence, at first, the "declarations" were merely tied up in bundles, in the order in which they were received, and deposited in a room for safe keeping, until arrangements could be made for their examination. For some months the receipts ranged from 1,000 to 1,500 per day. There was, consequently, a large accumulation of them before the necessary preparations could be made for investigating their merits and issuing the warrants.

Under these circumstances, and knowing that a tardy execution of the law would defeat the purposes of those who passed it, and deprive many aged persons of the benefit of its provisions, I felt warranted in assuming the responsibility of increasing the force of the Pension Office with reference to that particular service. This course was approved by Congress at its last session, and appropriations were promptly made, not only to pay the clerks who had thus been employed, but for a still further addition to the force.

With the view of ascertaining how many additional No provision had been made by law to enable the office

tion to the force.

With the view of ascertaining how many additional With the view of ascertaining how many additional clerks would be necessary to keep pace with the number of applications, I called on the late Commissioner for an estimate of the probable number which would be submitted during the year. He could of course form his opinion only from the facts before him in relation to other laws of a similar nature. From these data he concluded that the number presented within the first year would be about fifty thousand, or one-fifth of the whole.

Guided in some measure by his estimate, but still desirous of making an allowance for contingencies, I asked for a number of elerks sufficient to adjudicate and issue warrants for 60,000 claims, which were granted. It was warrants for 60,000 claims, which were granted. It was soon found, however, that the number of applications would be almost three times as great as had been supposed. As far as the means at my disposal would allow, I have endeavored to meet the emergency. Some additional clerks have been employed. Others who could be spared for a time from my own office have been detailed to do duty in the Pension Office, and the clerks of that bureau have been required to work an hour longer in each bureau have been required to work an hour longer in each day than has heretofore been customary. In all these efforts to advance the progress of the business I received the cordial co-operation, not only of the head of the bureau and his efficient acting chief clerk, but of the large body of his assistant clerks engaged on that business, who have manifested the most laudable zeal in the dishares of their representations.

charge of their respective duties.

The first warrants were issued about the first of Februry last. For some months the number sent out each day was comparatively small, because many of the clerks were engaged in acknowledging the receipt of claims, corresponding with claimants, and registering, filing, and preparing the cases for adjudication.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, of the 157,000 claims which had been filed on the 1st of November, 1851, 76,000 had been examined and 54,000 carried into war-

75,000 had been examined and 54,000 carried into warrant; 22,000 have been rejected or suspended for further consideration. The number of warrants now issued daily exceeds 400, and by the meeting of Congress the aggregate number of warrants issued will be about 70,000.

Thus it will be seen that, in the short space of nine or ten months, almost as many cases have been adjudicated under the act of 1850, as have been disposed of under the law of 1847, in relation to Mexican warrants, since its passage.

under the law of 1847, in relation to Mexican warrants, since its passage.

It may not be improper here to remark that it has been the invariable rule of the office to act on the cases in the order of their presentation. If there have been occasional departures from it, they have been the effect of accident and not of design. Complaints have been made to me from various quarters that the rule had been violated, but it was found, in every instance, that the cases which it was alleged had been improperly passed by in favor of junior applications were those which had been suspended for some defect or informality. As soon as a case is ascertained to belong to this class, it is laid aside until the defect can be supplied, and in the mean time the office proceeds with other applications in their appropriate order. Any other rule would cause endless delay.

The Report of the Commissioner of Pensions contains many valuable suggestions of amendments and mfdifications of the existing laws, to all of which I respectfully invite your attention. The most important are the following, viz:

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lowing, viz:

First. That the benefits of the pension laws be confined to those who rendered the military service, and to the widows and minor children of such as are dead.

Second. That more efficient provisions be adopted to prevent frauds under the various pension laws, and more especially under those relating to invalids.

Within the last year two hundred and thirty-one applications for invalid pensions were presented from two of the Western States, all of which were authenticated according to the forms of law. But the Commissioner having conceived the suspicion that many of them were fraudulent, I caused a confidential agent to visit the neighborhood, and it was ascertained that only sixty-one were just, and that the residue were fraudulent.

neighborhood, and it was ascertained that only sixty-one were just, and that the residue were fraudulent.

Third. That warrants for bounty lands under the act of 28th September, 1850, be made assignable. Most of the holders of these claims are persons far advanced in life, or widows or orphans who have not the means of locating them to advantage, and can therefore only make them available by sale.

Fourth. The enactment of a law making it a felony to

persons are now receiving pensions, showing an increase of 294 since the date of my last report.

Navy Pensioners.

It has heretofore been the custom to report the statistics relating to pensioners of this class to the Secretary of the Navy, by whom they were communicated to the President. But, believing that it would be more satisfactory to embody all the facts relating to the entire subject of pensions in a single report, I have deemed it proper to embrace this class with the others.

It appears from the report of the Commissioner of Pensions that the number of invalid pensioners of this class now on the rolls is 709, 29 having been added during the last year; that the number of widows now on the rolls is 481, being an increase during the last year of 92; and that the number of orphans is 38, 11 having been added since the last report. The aggregate amount required to pay pensioners of this class now on the rolls is \$147,264.96.

sation of clerks be so modified as to engo the nature and to graduate their salaries according respectively. At value of the services rendered receive more than \$3.33\frac{1}{2} per day. This is insufficient to command the talents necessary for some brace of the service, and is more than enough for others. My proposition would involve no increase of the astrogate compensation of the clerks, but only a more equitable apportionment of it.

Public Lands.

Public Lands. The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office will exhibit much activity in the operations of that bureau and the various branches of the public service

bureau and the various branches of the public service connected with it.

The quantity of land sold during the last fiscal year was 1,846,847.49-100 acres, for which the sum of \$2,370,947.45 was received. The quantity sold during the first quarter of the present fiscal year was 473,140.65-100 acres, producing \$601,691. The quantity sold during the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year was 266,879.66-100 acres, the proceeds of which amounted to \$349,876.06; thus showing a considerable increase in the sales of the present over those of the last fiscal year. The quantity of land located during the last fiscal year, with bounty land warrants, was 2,454,000 acres, which, added to the quantity sold for cash, makes an aggregate of 4,300,847.49-100 acres. Had the quantity located with warrants during the last fiscal year been disposed of for eash at the minimum price, the aggregate of revenue from sales of the public lands would have been \$5,438,447.45. The whole number of warrants issued up to the 1st of November instant, under the Mexican war bounty land law of 11th February, 1847, is 80,781. Of these optical have been located and returned to the General Land Office; and of this latter number 66,200 have been patented. The whole number of warrants issued, up to the same period, under the general bounty land law of September 28, 1850, is 54,201; and of the 3,708 which have been located and returned to the General Land Office, 1,950 had been patented on the 1st ultime.

Surveys, as authorized by law, have been commenced

returned to the General Land Office, 1,950 had been patented on the 1st ultime.

Surveys, as authorized by law, have been commenced in Oregon and California, but restricted as yet to the establishment of the principal base and meridian lines, from which are subsequently to be projected the township and subdivisional surveys.

The Surveyors General of Oregon and California deserve great credit for the energy which has thus far characterized their labors. Plats have already been received at the General Land Office showing the base and meridian lines in Oregon, and commendable progress in the establishment of those in California.

In conducting these surveys, the object has been to

ment of those in California.

In conducting these surveys, the object has been to profit by the suggestions of past experience; and to this end a manual of instructions, in detail, was prepared for the government of the Surveyors General and their deputies, calculated, it is believed, to facilitate their field operations.

The law authorizing the extension of the surveys into the Territory of Oregon provided for the introduction of what is known as the "Georletic method," should the Dethe Territory of Oregon provided for the introduction of what is known as the "Geodetic method," should the Department deem it expedient to do so; but, for reasons assigned by the Commissioner, it was not considered advisable to adopt it, further than to combine with the rectangular surveys a system of triangulations to prominent objects observable from the legal stations on the main lines of the survey between the Cascade mountains and the coast. In the instructions to the Surveyor General his attention was specially drawn to the provisions of the treaty concluded on the 15th of June, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, respecting the rights of the Hudson's Bay and Puget Sound Agricultural companies, and of other British subjects; and as no steps had been taken by the United States with a view to the acquisition of the lands in the occupancy of these companies, as provided for by said treaty, and as no means had been provided for ascertaining and defining the particular lands, the rights to which were, by the terms of the treaty, to be respected, it became necessary to require that the claimants should present to the Surveyor General the evidence of the rights claimed by them; and the Surveyor General was directed to avoid, as far as practicable, any sectional or other minute subdivision of the lands covered by such claims, and merely to extend the township lines over them, so as to indicate their relative position and extent. The Surveyor General is required to report his proceedings in the premises and it is recommended that

California," a commission has been organized, and will convene at San Francisco on the 8th day of December proximo. With a view to facilitate their operations, they were directed to organize in this city on the 10th of Sepwere directed to organize in this city on the 10th of September last, when instructions as to the material subjects contemplated by the law were given to them, which it is believed will be advantageous to the claimants and to the Government, by ascertaining in the outset the particular parcels of land claimed, and thereby avoiding uncertainty and embarrassment in disposing of the public domain. The archives of the former Governments of California have been delivered over to the Surveyor General, who is authorized to employ a competent person to arrange, classify, and index them, so that they may be rendered available in the examination of land titles.

It is recommended that our general land system be extended over California, in such details as, in the wisdom of Congress, may be deemed best adapted to the peculiar condition and character of the country, and that the actual settlers on the agricultural lands may have such preference in becoming purchasers thereof as is in accordance with the general spirit of our pre-emption laws.

Mineral Lands in California.

Mineral Lands in California.

In my last annual report I stated my objections to leasing the mineral lands as recommended by my predecessor. I then expressed the opinion that they should be divided into small parcels or lots and sold at public auction. Subsequent information and reflection, however, have led me to doubt the propriety of that recommendation. The public sentiment of California seems to be opposed to any individual appropriation of the gold-bearing lands; and as the present system of leaving them a common, open to the enterprise of all our citizens, and subject only to such regulations as the miners themselves may adopt, and to the State laws for the preservation of the peace, seems to have worked well in practice, I am inclined to think that the wisest policy is not to interfere with it for the present, but to wait until time and experience shall have pointed out some less objectionable mode of disposing of them. The whole subject is embarrassed with difficulties, and it would seem to be better to submit to the temporary inconvenience of an imperfect system than to incur the hazard of adopting one founded in erroneus principles, under which rights might be vested in individuals, and the evils-become irremediable by the legislative power.

The report of the Commissioner contains many valuable suggestions and recommendations with regard to certain lands, the titles to which have been adjudicated in suits against the United States, as authorized by the act of June 17th, 1844; the interference of sales and locations with old grants; amendments of the provisions of the pre-emption portion of the act of 4th September, 1841; the revival and continuance of the powers conferred by the act of 3d of March, 1846, for the adjustment of suspended entries; as to the mode of disposing of abandoned military reservations and the unsold portions of the Chickasaw cession of 1832; and with respect to the districts from which the jurisdiction of the Surveyors General has been withdrawn, their offices abolished, and th Mineral Lands in California.

allowing certain fees to the Registers and Receivers for their services in locating bounty land warrants, and the increase of the compensation of the Surveyors General of Oregon and California; to all of which I respectfully in-

vite your attention. Indian Affairs. The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs will furnish full and precise information in regard to the present condition of all the various tribes within our borders,

furnish full and precise information in regard to the present condition of all the various tribes within our borders, and the nature of our existing relations with each of them.

It will be seen that the tribes resident in New York, and in the country west of Arkansas, are living under governments established by themselves, and making gradual advances in agriculture and all the pursuits of civilized life. Those settled in the Northwest are also beginning to assume the habits and occupations of the whites, and are living as peaceable citizens on their own territory. They have thus acquired the good-will of their neighbors; and in some instances, where, by the terms of their treaties with the United States, they are liable to be removed at the will of the President from their present abodes, petitions, numerously signed by white persons resident in their immediate vicinity, have been presented, praying that they may be allowed to remain. Under these circumstances, humanity and sound policy alke require a compliance with the wishes of the petitioners; and I therefore cordially concur in the recommendation of the Commissioner to that effect.

Treaties have been negotiated with some of the tribes of the Northwest, on terms mutually advantageous to the contracting parties, by which their title has been extinguished to a large domain in Minnesota, covering an area as extensive as the State of New York, and well adapted to the purposes of agriculture.

Treaties have also, it its believed, been negotiated with

to the purposes of agriculture.

Treaties have also, it is believed, been negotiated with many of the tribes resident in New Mexico, California, in the Wine carty had been beauty lie has the plon-